

June 11, 2019

The Honorable Tom Udall United States Senate 531 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

As you observe, the Commission is evaluating whether this proposed transaction is in the public interest. Based on a careful analysis of the record that has been developed thus far and commitments the parties have made to the Commission, I believe approval of the transaction would be in the public interest.

In particular, two of the FCC's top priorities are closing the digital divide in rural America and advancing United States leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. The commitments made by T-Mobile and Sprint would substantially advance each of these critical objectives. For example, the companies have committed to deploying a 5G network that would cover 97% of our nation's population within three years of the closing of the merger and 99% of Americans within six years. This 5G network would also reach deep into rural areas, with 85% of rural Americans covered within three years and 90% covered within six years. Additionally, T-Mobile and Sprint would guarantee that 90% of Americans would have access to mobile broadband service at speeds of at least 100 Mbps and 99% would have access to speeds of at least 50 Mbps. Demonstrating that 5G will indeed benefit rural Americans, T-Mobile and Sprint have promised that their network would cover at least two-thirds of our nation's rural population with high-speed, mid-band 5G, which could improve the economy and quality of life in many small towns across the country. The construction of this network and the delivery of such high-speed wireless services to the vast majority of Americans would substantially benefit consumers and our country as a whole. Moreover, the companies have offered specific commitments regarding the rollout of an in-home broadband product, including to rural households. This would give many Americans another option for home broadband service—an infusion of competition that will benefit consumers.

Moreover, I strongly disagree with your characterization of these commitments as vague promises. To begin with, the network buildout commitments are quite specific. And moreover, to ensure that the parties do what they promise, they have agreed to strong accountability measures. They would suffer serious consequences if they did not follow through on their commitments to the FCC. These consequences, which could include total payments to the U.S. Treasury of billions of dollars, repeatable until the commitments are met, create a powerful incentive for the companies to meet their obligations on time.

In light of the significant commitments made by T-Mobile and Sprint as well as the facts in the record to date, I believe that this transaction is in the public interest and intend to recommend to my colleagues that the FCC approve it. I have already said publicly that I will circulate an order to my colleagues reflecting this recommendation in the coming weeks. In my view, this is a unique opportunity to speed up the deployment of 5G throughout the United States and bring much faster mobile broadband to rural Americans. We should seize this opportunity.

Finally, in terms of process, I can assure you that the FCC has followed the consistent agency practice with respect to transactional review. Indeed, we have been even more transparent than has often been the case, making public the specific details of particular commitments made by the parties weeks before the circulation of a draft order. This has afforded an opportunity for public comment on the conditions, already taken advantage of by several commenters for and against the transaction.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.



June 11, 2019

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren United States Senate 317 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

As you observe, the Commission is evaluating whether this proposed transaction is in the public interest. Based on a careful analysis of the record that has been developed thus far and commitments the parties have made to the Commission, I believe approval of the transaction would be in the public interest.

In particular, two of the FCC's top priorities are closing the digital divide in rural America and advancing United States leadership in 5G, the next generation of wireless connectivity. The commitments made by T-Mobile and Sprint would substantially advance each of these critical objectives. For example, the companies have committed to deploying a 5G network that would cover 97% of our nation's population within three years of the closing of the merger and 99% of Americans within six years. This 5G network would also reach deep into rural areas, with 85% of rural Americans covered within three years and 90% covered within six years. Additionally, T-Mobile and Sprint would guarantee that 90% of Americans would have access to mobile broadband service at speeds of at least 100 Mbps and 99% would have access to speeds of at least 50 Mbps. Demonstrating that 5G will indeed benefit rural Americans, T-Mobile and Sprint have promised that their network would cover at least two-thirds of our nation's rural population with high-speed, mid-band 5G, which could improve the economy and quality of life in many small towns across the country. The construction of this network and the delivery of such high-speed wireless services to the vast majority of Americans would substantially benefit consumers and our country as a whole. Moreover, the companies have offered specific commitments regarding the rollout of an in-home broadband product, including to rural households. This would give many Americans another option for home broadband service—an infusion of competition that will benefit consumers.

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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Edward J. Markey United States Senate 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

### Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

As you observe, the Commission is evaluating whether this proposed transaction is in the public interest. Based on a careful analysis of the record that has been developed thus far and commitments the parties have made to the Commission, I believe approval of the transaction would be in the public interest.

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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar United States Senate 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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June 11, 2019

The Honorable Cory Booker United States Senate 717 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

#### Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. I appreciate hearing your views, and your letter will be made part of the official record of the proceeding.

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### Page 2—The Honorable Cory Booker

Contrary to your assertion, these commitments are transaction-specific. They are intended either to ensure that transaction-specific benefits claimed by the parties are realized or to address alleged transaction-specific harms.

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Ajit V. Pai



June 11, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal United States Senate 706 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

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